

US-PAT-NO: 6213703

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6213703 B1

****See image for Certificate of Correction****

TITLE: Electronic bookstore vending machine

----- KWIC -----

Abstract Text - ABTX (1):

The present invention provides a method and system for producing books on-demand. An electronic bookstore in accordance with the subject invention can receive an electronic text file of a book and then print and bind a copy of the book. A user may browse an electronic catalog, for example over the Internet, and place an order for a book which can be picked up at a conveniently located electronic bookstore shortly after placing the order. The subject invention reduces costs and waste associated with conventional production and distribution of print matter. Advantageously, the subject invention allows books with smaller audiences to be published at a reasonable price. An electronic bookstore in accordance with the subject invention can have access to literally millions of books and can print and bind any selected book in a few minutes.

Application Filing Date - AD (1):

20000427

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (10):

The present invention provides a method and system for producing books on-demand; it can reduce the costs and improves the way books, magazines and other printer matters are created and delivered to the customer, helping to preserve both the environment and human health. The subject invention pertains to an electronic bookstore (EBS) vending machine which can receive an electronic text file of the contents for a book and then print and bind a copy of such a book. The electronic text file can be requested by communication with a central distribution unit (CDU) which can have the electronic text files stored and/or can access the electronic text files at, for example, a plurality of publisher's and/or author's storage facilities. The CDU, upon receiving a request for a certain book, can access and transmit the electronic text file to an appropriate EBS. Alternatively, the EBS can receive the electronic text file by any other available means, for example, floppy disks, optical disks, magnetic storage devices, via a modem, or from another computer. Once the EBS receives the electronic text file, the book can be printed and bound at the EBS.